

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey # PG: 65-8 Building Date c.1870, c.1920
Building Name Green Hill
Location 2009 Van Buren Street, West Hyattsville, MD 20782

Private/Seminary/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

DESCRIPTION

Green Hill is a three-part fieldstone mansion, primarily of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, on an irregularly-shaped, 14-acre site at 2009 Van Buren Street in West Hyattsville, near the intersection of East-West Highway (MD Route 410) and Ager and Riggs roads. The mansion has a multi-section hip roof and portions of the house have been embellished with early-twentieth century neo-classical details, including a colossal portico. The elevated, landscaped site contains a variety of mature specimen trees including beech, chestnut, Chinese elm, white oak, red maple, holly and pine. The property contains a number of buildings and structures and the sites of several more that have been demolished. The most important of the remaining structures are the large mansion, a small frame shed to the northeast and the cenotaph marking the original grave of Maj. Pierre Charles L'Enfant.

SIGNIFICANCE

Green Hill is a three-part fieldstone mansion in West Hyattsville. The mansion has been substantially enlarged and altered over its long history. While the oldest portion of the house has long been understood to date from the late 18th century, no physical evidence from that period is visible. The present house is the result of a late 19th century expansion and an early 20th century expansion and alteration. While the architectural integrity of Green Hill is somewhat compromised, particularly on the exterior, the historical significance of the site itself is firmly established. In the late 18th century, Green Hill, part of the colonial land patent Chillum Castle Manor, was among the extensive holdings in the region of one of the County's most successful early planters, William Dudley Digges. The earliest significance of the property for which there is physical evidence is the cenotaph erected in 1925 to mark the original burial place of Maj. Pierre Charles L'Enfant, designer of the District of Columbia, who died at Green Hill in 1825. An existing house at Green Hill and 342 surrounding acres were purchased as a country seat by prominent Washington, DC banker George Washington Riggs in 1863. Riggs, co-founder with William Wilson Corcoran of what is now Riggs National Bank, was one of 19th century Washington's wealthiest and most influential citizens. Throughout the Riggs family ownership, Green Hill continued to expand and by the 1930s when it passed out of the family, the farm had grown to over 600 acres. With the death in 1936, of the last Riggs family owner, Elisha Francis Riggs, Jr., the greatly enlarged and by then formal mansion and 40.9 acres were sold to the Congregation of the Resurrection who operated the property as a seminary. Since 1960, the mansion and property, by then reduced to 14.6 acres, has been operated as a Pallotine seminary, and is currently known as the Pallotine Seminary at Green Hill.

Acreage: 14.6 acres

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. PG 65-8

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic GREEN HILL

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2009 Van Buren Street

not for publication

city, town West Hyattsville

vicinity of

congressional district 5th

state Maryland

county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u>X</u> educational
<u>X</u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government
	<u> </u> being considered	<u>X</u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial
	<u> </u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military
			<u> </u> museum
			<u> </u> park
			<u> </u> private residence
			<u>X</u> religious
			<u> </u> scientific
			<u> </u> transportation
			<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Pallotine Seminary at Green Hill, Inc.

street & number 2009 Van Buren Street

telephone no.:

city, town West Hyattsville

state and zip code MD 20782

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse

liber 3810

street & number 14735 Main Street

folio 466

city, town Upper Marlboro

state MD 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plan

date 1981

 federal state county local

depository for survey records CAB 4th Floor 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive

Upper Marlboro

Maryland

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Site

Green Hill is located on a 14-acre irregularly-shaped, landscaped parcel in West Hyattsville at 2009 Van Buren Street. The elevated site is located north of East-West Highway (MD Route 410) near its intersection with Ager and Riggs roads. The right-of-way of Route 410 forms the southern boundary of the site, which is surrounded on its remaining sides (north, east and west) by mid-20th century residential subdivisions.

The perimeter of the site, particularly to the east, south and west is lined with a narrow swath of woodlands. Other portions of the site are landscaped with a variety of mature specimen trees including beech, chestnut, Chinese elm, white oak, red maple, holly and pine. The property contains a number of buildings and structures and the sites of several more that have been demolished. The most important of the remaining structures are the mansion house, a small frame shed northeast of the house and the cenotaph marking the original grave of Maj. Pierre Charles L'Enfant.

Roughly centered on the property is the mansion house, accessed by a asphalt drive originating at the northwest corner of the site and Van Buren Street. South of the house, the drive forms a traffic circle. From the circle, the drive proceeds north to a parking lot between the house and a recently-erected frame garage directly east of the house. From the east end of the traffic circle, a branch of the drive continues to the southeast corner of the site, where it terminates.

Northeast of both the mansion house and the modern garage is a small, one-story, tripartite, frame shed from the early 20th century with an elongated, rectangular plan resting on concrete-block piers. The shed has a side-gable roof and is sheathed with horizontal board siding. The vertical-board door at the extreme north end of the shed has large, wrought-iron strap hinges. (Photograph 11, 12)

Also on the site about 150' north of the house, are two asphalt game surfaces. Both of these "courts" were constructed in the mid-20th century; they are now unused and have fallen into disrepair. Closer to the house, is a handball court with its brick and concrete backstop. Immediately to the north and west of the handball court is a tennis court. Approximately 50' west of the mansion, near the site of the estate's small, private chapel (demolished), is a fieldstone grotto with planting beds and a representation of the apparition of Saint Bernadette at Lourdes. Also on the property, within the circular drive in front of the mansion is a statue of St. Vincent Palloti. The statutes date from the 1960s. (Photograph 2)

Directly north of the house, at the edge of the property in a small of grove of red cedars, is the L'Enfant cenotaph. The structure marks the original burial place of L'Enfant who died at Green Hill in 1825. The grove of cedars was the location of at least one other interment over the years, but no evidence of burials other than L'Enfant's is visible. The modest structure, erected in 1925 has low brick walls capped by a limestone slab inscribed in Latin. The inscription is weathered and difficult to read. (Photograph 8)

The Mansion

The mansion house itself is a large, two-story and attic, three-part, fieldstone house with an irregular plan, fieldstone foundation, slate-covered hip roofs and limestone window and door surrounds. The main (south) facade of the house has a wide two-story portico with six large, wooden Ionic columns and two pilasters at its extreme east and west ends. (Photographs 1, 2)

The earliest portion of Green Hill is the two-story, four-by-two bay "service" wing which is understood to have been originally a freestanding frame dwelling possibly constructed at the end of the 18th century. The south elevation of the wing is partially attached to the northeast corner of the house's main block. Neither materials nor construction techniques from that period are readily visible, and the fieldstone exterior is thought to date to the second half of the 19th century, when the main block was added.

The rectangular-plan service wing rests on a high basement. The wing has a hip roof and there is a small shed dormer on the west slope, where the service wing meets the main block. A simply-molded wood, boxed cornice encircles the wing. All window and door openings have smooth, rectangular, limestone lintels and lug sills. Throughout the wing, windows are 4/4 double-hung wood sash. The second story windows are slightly smaller than those of the first story.

The wing's four-bay east elevation has a single-door entry with transom at the first story of the northernmost bay. The entry is accessed by a two-bay, fieldstone and concrete porch surmounted by a shed-roof metal awning with decorative aluminum supports. The entry door, transom, porch and awning are mid- or late-20th century additions. Roughly centered on the facade is a small two-pane cellar window. (Photograph 4)

The two-bay north elevation is lighted by two closely-spaced windows at the first story. Centered at the second story is a wood and glass door accessed by a flight of metal stairs. Adjacent to this door, and to the west is a small 4/4 window. The second story door is also a mid- or late-20th century addition.

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Description (continued)

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The first story of the wing's three-bay west elevation has a centered entry and a double-leaf door. The entry bay is flanked by 4/4 windows. There are three windows spaced evenly across the second story. This entry door is also modern. Access to the west entry of the wing is provided by a square, raised, brick and slate patio that unites the service wing with the main block to the south. (Photographs 5, 6)

In contrast to the straightforward and vernacular character of the service wing, the remaining sections of the building are more formal in their presentation. The remainder of the house was built in two sections; the "main block" southeast of the service wing and the "library wing" to the west of the main block. Like the service wing, the two other sections of the house also have simple rectangular plans. They employ the same random fieldstone masonry and similar stone trim, although on the more formal elevations of the main block and library wing, the trim is more highly detailed. (Photographs 1, 2, 3, 7)

In footprint and height, the 3-by-3 bay main block is the largest section of the house. The block rests on a fieldstone basement and the attic story is sheltered by a tall hip roof covered with slate. A dentilated wooden cornice encircles the main block. The attic is lighted by two, symmetrically-placed, round-arch dormers on the north and south slopes, and a large shed roof dormer on the east slope. The dormers have multi-paned, wood-frame casement windows. The shed roof dormer is a later addition. There is a small fieldstone chimney in the north slope of the roof. (Photograph 2)

The three-bay east elevation and the three bays of the north elevation of the main block that are exposed west of the service wing, both have arrangements of single windows with flat limestone lintels and sills. Each bay of the east elevation has a large double-hung window at the first and second story. On the north elevation, there is a window between the first and second story, lighting the stair landing. Between the first and second stories, randomly-located along the east elevation, are the sawn edges of several small timbers that appear to have been part of the framing of the old, Victorian porch. (Photographs 4 and 6)

As the formal introduction to the mansion and its estate, the scale and decoration of the main block are grander than those of the remaining portions of the building. The neo-classically detailed south facade of the main block addresses the circular drive and vista to the south. The facade is dominated by the colossal entry portico with its six, two-story, wooden columns with capitals carved in the Ionic order and a blank frieze. The portico is fronted by a wide set of granite steps with a wrought-iron handrail; the portico floor is diamond-pattern marble tile. (Photograph 1)

The window and door surrounds of the main (south) facade sheltered by the portico are more elaborately carved than those on the east and north elevations of the main block, which are the same flat lintels and sills found on the service wing. The three-bay south facade has a centered double-door entrance bay with sidelights and an elaborately carved, neo-classical stone surround with a decorated frieze and a dentilated, arched, pediment supported by engaged columns. Both the sidelights and entry doors are mid-20th century replacements. There are also sawm timbers from the Victorian porch visible between the stories of the facade.

At the second story above the entry, is a tri-partite window defined by a molded, stone surround with pilasters, a blank frieze and simple horizontal cornice. The window openings are partially filled with multi-paned wood-frame casements that are not original. Flanking the centered entrance bay at both the first and second stories are single, large window openings with molded stone surrounds. The first story surrounds have projecting cornices, while those of the second floor do not. The window openings of these bays are also only partially-filled with replacement windows, that here are 4/4 double-hung sash. (Photograph 3)

The 3-by-2 bay library wing to the west of the main block is detailed with a simplified version of the Neo-classical aesthetic of the house's entry facade. The two-story and attic wing has a rectangular plan and a hip roof with a wide end chimney to the west and a smaller one on the north slope to the east. A narrow, undentilated cornice encircles the wing, which is slightly narrower than the main block. A stone watertable separates the foundation from the first story of the south facade. The watertable is carried around the wing as the edge of the open stone and concrete porch that wraps around the west and north sides of the wing. Each elevation of the wing is a symmetrical composition. The north and south elevations have an identical fenestration: three sets of tall French doors with eight-pane transoms at the first story and smaller windows at the second story, all with molded stone surrounds. The French doors of the south (entry drive) elevation lead to small wrought iron balconets, while those of the north elevation lead to the open porch. The narrow west elevation of the wing originally contained a set of French doors on either side of the flush center chimney. While the surrounds are still in place, the openings have been stuccoed over. Throughout the library wing, selected windows on the first and second stories have been altered, although a number of the original second story casements are still intact. Where these have been replaced, there are modern, 4/4 double-hung windows. (Photographs 2, 7)

Interior

The interior of Green Hill has been extensively altered over its long history. Few historic interior details remain; most of the finish materials and the room arrangement appears to date from the mid 20th century. The main entrance, established in the late 19th century and embellished in the early 20th century, still serves that purpose. The house's double-door main entry leads to a central hall that runs north and south within the main block. On the east and north walls of the entry hall is a mid-20th century, wood and metal, open stair that serves the upper floors. Also at the north end of the central hall is a small door that leads to the rear (north) terrace and garden. In the northeast corner of the main block, off the center hall is a short that leads to the service wing to the north as well as stairs to the basement under all three sections of the house. Near the point where stairs descend to the basement there is a small, modern hall bathroom. Also off the center hall is a hall leading to the library wing, which now serves as a chapel.

Throughout the first floor of the main block, all room have modern drop-ceilings and wall-to-wall carpeting. East of the central hall, is a suite of small rooms, composed on an office, bedroom and bathroom, carved out of what is understood to be the late 19th and early 20th century dining room. On the west wall of the office, which is the southernmost room in the suite, there is a modern brick mantel; replacing an older mantel in this location. The present dining room and kitchen located in the service wing are accessed from the hall at the northeast corner of the main block. The dining room is a large rectangular space, occupying most of the first floor of the service wing. Along the west wall, there are large, double-hung windows flanking a centered, double door that leads to the uncovered porch uniting the service wing and main block. There is a single, large, double-hung window in the north wall of the dining room. The long, rectangular kitchen occupies the remaining space on the first floor. On the north wall there is a large, double-hung window and along its east wall there are three large, double-hung windows and a single-door entry to the extreme north, leading to a small, covered service porch.

In the west half of the first floor there are single, square rooms in the north and south corners of the block, separated by the hallway leading to the library wing. This configuration apparently dates to the library addition, when the large west parlor was divided into two smaller ones. The molded door surrounds of the library hall are the only ones remaining from the alterations carried out in the main block when the library wing was added in the early 1920s. The small south parlor is now used as a waiting room and the north parlor as a sacristy. The waiting room has doors to the central hall to the east and the "library" hall to the north, while the sacristy has a single, south door leading to the library hall.

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The westernmost portion of the first floor is occupied by a large room built as a library/parlor, that is part of the two-story and attic addition to the house built in the early 1920s. The large, paneled library has a rectangular plan. Although it has been altered for use as a chapel, this room retains more of original details than any other in the house. The room is decorated with Georgian and Neo-classical details, including molded door and window surrounds and the broken pediment with cornice of the main (east) entry door. There are three sets of French doors in the north and south walls. Two sets of French doors in the west wall have been covered over. Around the room, the spaces in between the french doors are fitted with bookcases and storage closets behind paneled surrounds. The shelving for the bookcases has been removed and most of the hidden storage closets have been sealed. The original marble mantel and elaborately carved plaster overmantel on the room's west wall is believed to remain behind a modern enclosure that serves as the reredos the chapel's altar. The ceiling of the room has been modified to contain a large dropped oval that conceals both lighting and plumbing fixtures. The existence of the room's elaborately-carved and molded original cornice, behind the dropped ceiling, is undetermined. (Photographs 9, 10)

The second floor and attic of the house have been extensively altered. The room arrangement and finish materials appear to date from the mid-20th century, although several room have what appear to be early 20th century window and (interior) door surrounds. There is wall-to-wall carpeting throughout. Both floors contain a series of small bedrooms off a long east-west hall. The second story of the service wing is down a small flight of stairs at the northeast corner of the main block. The upper floor of the service wing also contains small bedrooms, but here the hall is narrow and runs north-south.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1865, c. 1920 Builder/Architect Unknown/Riggin Buckler

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Green Hill is a three-part fieldstone mansion in West Hyattsville. The mansion has been substantially enlarged and altered over its long history. While the oldest portion of the house has long been understood to date from the late 18th century, there is no visible physical evidence to confirm this. The present house is the result of a late 19th century expansion and an early 20th century expansion and alteration.

Throughout most of the 18th century, Green Hill was among the extensive of the Digges family's extensive land holdings in the region. The Digges' were among the County's largest landowners and most successful planters of the period. The Digges family seat was Warburton Manor on the Potomac, but their holdings included land in the north and western part of the County, including the colonial land patent Chillum Castle Manor, of which the farm known as Green Hill was a part.

The earliest significance of Green Hill for which there is physical evidence, is as the original burial place of Maj. Pierre Charles L'Enfant, designer of the Plan of the District of Columbia, who died there in 1825. Through the kindness of then owner William Dudley Digges, L'Enfant, who was without money or friends, apparently resided at Green Hill and served as farm superintendent for several years before his death. It is believed that L'Enfant became acquainted with Digges and visited Warburton Manor after nearby Fort Washington was destroyed by the British in August 1814.¹

After the death of William Dudley Digges in 1831, his widow Norah received Green Hill as her dower portion. An existing house at Green Hill and 342 surrounding acres were purchased as a country seat by George Washington Riggs from Norah Digges in 1863. George Washington Riggs (1813-1881), with William Wilson Corcoran co-founded what is now Riggs National Bank, and was one of 19th century Washington's wealthiest and most influential citizens.²

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Although the exact date is unknown, G.W. Riggs added to the existing house on the site apparently shortly after he purchased Green Hill, in order to accommodate his large family. Of the seven Riggs children, six lived to adulthood. G.W. Riggs added a larger, two-story and attic, rectangular-plan block to the southwest of the existing dwelling. This larger volume, which became the main block, was sheathed in fieldstone and had large regularly-placed double-hung windows with flat stone lintels and sills and was surmounted by a dormered, slate mansard roof. The main (south) and the east elevations of the new block were sheltered by a frame wraparound porch with a shed roof and decorative bracketing.³ Although it is ascribable only to hearsay, it is believed that at the time the main block was constructed, the existing frame portion of the house (the present service wing) was also sheathed with fieldstone.

The date of construction for the private family chapel (now demolished) erected by G.W. Riggs is known. The Riggs family, and in particular Mrs Riggs, were fervent Catholics, although Mr. Riggs had not been born into the faith. To celebrate the marriage of their daughter Cecelia in October 1867, Mr. and Mrs. Riggs, erected a small stone chapel in the Puginesque style approximately 150" feet of the house. The chapel was named St. Cecelia's after their daughter's patron saint and designed by Cecelia's fiance, Englishman, Henry Howard, a diplomat attached to the British Legation in Washington, DC.⁴ Long unused, the chapel was demolished in 1978 and any remaining foundations are now covered by lawn.

From the late 19th century, when G.W. Riggs added the main block, through the early 20th century and several Riggs family owners and occupants, the estate house at Green Hill remained essentially unchanged. In 1884, with the death of G.W. Riggs, his brother and executor Lawrason, conveyed Green Hill (then a farm of 626 acres) to G.W. Riggs' son, Thomas Lawrason Riggs. In 1897, after the death Thomas Lawrason Riggs (in 1888), the farm was divided into lots and bequeathed to his surviving siblings and nephews. Cecelia Riggs Howard and her spinster sister Alice, inherited Lot 2 which included the house and grounds on approximately 66 acres. Also a beneficiary of the 1897 Deed of Partition was G.W. Riggs other son, Elisha Francis Riggs (1851-1910). In 1920, the trustees of the Estate of Cecelia Howard sold Lot 2 to her nephew, Col. Elisha Francis Riggs, Jr. E.F. Riggs, Jr., had also inherited some of Green Hill from his father and namesake, and through the 1910s and 1920s began to reassemble many of the farm's partitioned lots.⁵

Elisha Francis Riggs, Jr. was born in 1887 to Elisha Francis, Sr., and Medora Thayer Riggs. As the grandson of one of Washington most famous and wealthy bankers, he enjoyed the benefits of a privileged childhood; private schooling at the Westminster School in Connecticut and Yale University (Class of 1909). Soon after graduation from Yale he joined the Army and

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embarked on a auspicious career, ultimately rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. During World War I, he was posted to St. Petersburg, as an observer with the Russian Army and later served as a special representative of President Wilson with the Armistice Commission at Klagenfurt (Austria). In 1920, Riggs resigned from the Army to establish himself at Green Hill as a gentleman farmer.

E. F. Riggs, Jr., and his wife, the former Alwina Bohlen, had two goals in the reassembly of Green Hill; the establishment of a country seat and the creation of a model dairy farm. In order to accomplish these goals, the old-fashioned, modest, Victorian house and grounds needed to be updated and expanded. To that end, the Riggs' engaged the services of Riggin Buckler around 1920. Buckler (1882-1955) was a prominent Baltimore architect and cousin of Mr. Riggs.⁶ Throughout the early 1920, Buckler's firm created what appeared to be a large group of drawings for additions and alterations to his cousin's estate, including several elaborate landscape plans for the grounds immediately around the house. The garden plans prepared by Buckler included both formal and informal rooms, echoing Italian, French and English gardening styles. It is clear from old photographs and the existing landscaping that most of proposed garden plans were never undertaken, but most of the mature specimen trees on the site likely date from a planting program of the 1920s or 1930s.⁷

The present appearance of Green Hill (particularly the exterior) is a result of modifications made apparently under the direction of Buckler in the early 1920s. The house was altered and enlarge to give it a more formal appearance, that of a substantial country house with the revivalist details the popular in the 1920s. Changes to the house of the period include the reworking of the main block, and in particular its entry (south) facade and the addition of the two-story library wing to the west. The mansard roof of the main block was removed and replaced with a tall, slate, hip roof with symmetrically-placed, round-arch dormers. The Victorian porch was removed and replacement with the neo-classical portico, and the windows were altered to include neo-classical molded window surrounds. The entry was given its elaborately-carved, pedimented stone surround. The new library wing, a balanced composition in the neo-classical tradition, was a more modest rendition of the house's new aesthetic, with the same random ashlar fieldstone walls and the molded limestone surrounds of the entry facade.

With the addition of the library wing, there were added alterations to the house's interior, the most important of which were the formal stair in the main hall (now removed) and the division of the main block's large west parlor into two smaller ones separated by a hall leading to the large library. Of the alterations to the interior of the house of the 1920s, the library, more than any other space, retains its details. Buckler's architectural drawings for the library and photographs taken after completion, indicate that it was a

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neo-classical, neo-Georgian, paneled room fitted with bookcases and storage cabinets, lighted by sets of French doors and had an elaborate pedimented door surround as well as a marble mantel, and highly-carved overmantel designed to accommodate a portrait or mirror. Most of the details appear to remain though the room has been painted and the mantel framed in.

Buckler was also responsible for a number of agricultural outbuildings added to the farm in the 1920s, including stone barns for horse and cattle, guest cottages, sheds for equipment and small animals and a farm superintendent's cottage. Of these, only a frame shed near the house, possibly used to house Col. Riggs' dogs, and the modest Colonial Revival superintendent's cottage, southeast of the house and now on a separate parcel, still stand.⁸

In the fall of 1925, to mark the centennial of L'Enfant's death at Green Hill, Col. Riggs erected the brick and stone cenotaph marking the original gravesite, north of the house in the grove of red cedars. In the late 19th century, W. W. Corcoran of Washington had initiated efforts to relocate L'Enfant's remains as a tribute to the French Army officer and engineer who planned the street system of the District of Columbia and for whom no appropriate monument had been erected. Corcoran did not live to realize his goal as it was not until April 22, 1909, when the mansion was owned by that the remains were exhumed for relocation to Arlington Cemetery, after lying in state in the Capitol.

Col. and Mrs. Riggs operated the estate and dairy farm with its growing complex of buildings through the mid 1930s. In the fall of 1933, Col. Riggs assumed the post of Chief of Insular Police in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Riggs held that post until February 23, 1936, when he was assassinated there.¹⁰ To settle the estate of Col. Riggs, the Green Hill estate was again divided. His widow, Alwina Bohlen Riggs sold most of Lot 2, a 40.9 acre parcel to the Congregation of the Resurrection, Inc., for use as a seminary. The parcel contained:

...25 acres of land, including the grounds of the mansion house, the mansion house, two servants houses and other outbuildings, ancient chapel, formal garden, large lawn, vineyard, fish pool, original tomb of Major L'Enfant, vegetable and flower gardens and approximately 15 acres of land adjoining the mansion house grounds on the north, to obtain necessary privacy.¹¹

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Statement of Significance (continued)

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The Congregation of the Resurrection operated Green Hill as a seminary for a number of years, selling off portion of its for development in the early 1950s. Approximately 25 acres of the 40.9 acre parcel were sold and developed as as the Riggs Terrace and Lewisdale subdivisions that currently surround the property on the east, north and west. In 1955, the Congregation also deeded property for the right of way for East-West Highway, which would then define the property on the south.

In 1960, the Congregation sold the property, then amounting to 14.6 acres, to a Pallotine Order, the Pallotine Fathers of the Eastern Province, who continued its use as a seminary.¹² The property is currently operated as the Pallotine Seminary at Green Hill. Beginning probably in the late 1930s and through out least the 1960s, the occupants of Green Hill modified its interior to its current configuration to accommodate its educational, residential and religious uses.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG:65-8

Section 8 Page 6

1. See Bowie, Effie Gwynn, Across the Years in Prince Goerge's County, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1975, pp. 248-267.
2. See Prince George's County Land Records, FS1:824, 20 November 1863 and Register of Wills, TT1:454, 15 January 1831. See obituary, "Death of George W. Riggs," The Washington Star, August 1881.
3. The original character of the main block is documented in 19th century photographs, most particularly one in the Library of Congress entitled "Riggs Family Country House, Green Hill, Prince George's County, ca. 1875" by J. Nephew. See James M. Goode Collection, Library of Congress, #G1921 Lot 11800-C2.
2. From Ancestry & Descendance of Sir Henry Francis Howard, 1809-1898, by Franz von Recum (great grandson), Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress.
5. See Prince George's County Land Records, JWB:203, 23 April 1884; JB1:100, 1 July 1897; 156:179, 24 May 1920.
6. Throughout the early 20th century, Buckler's firm, Sill, Buckler and Fenhagen (later Buckler & Fenhagen) designed a number of important public buildings in Baltimore and throughout Maryland in the Beaux Arts and popular revivalist aesthetic of the period.
7. Some of Riggins Buckler's drawing for Green Hill are in the collection of a successor firm in Baltimore, Ayres, Saint, Gross, as well as a relative, Mr. John B. Riggs of Wilmington, Delaware. The drawings known to exist are numbered as part of a large (and incomplete) set.
8. Drawings in the collection of Ayres, Saint, Gross in Baltimore, indicate that Buckler designed the superintendent's cottage around 1922. The small frame house, now located in the adjacent Lewisdale subdivision at 6606 22nd Place, is known as the Green Hill Overseer's House (#65-13).
9. "L'Enfant, Capital's Designer, Gave Green Hill Fame," The Washington Star, 5 April 1936, p. F-2.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG: 65-8
Section 8 Page 7

10. Obituary, "E. Francis Riggs Was Grandson of Banker Here,"
The Washington Post, February 24, 1936.10.
11. Prince George's County Register of Wills; Elisha Francis Riggs, Jr.,
Admin. # 5701, 26 May 1936.
12. See Prince George's County Land Records: 17:83, 26 July 1950; 1265:322,
28 August 1950; 1265:326, 28 August 1950; 1377:448, 20 June 1951;
1924:161, 2 November 1955; 2476:1, 9 August 1960 and 3810:466, 2 March 1970.

CHAIN OF TITLE
PG #65-8
Green Hill
West Hyattsville, MD

3810:466
2 March 1970
Deed

Pallotine Fathers of the Eastern Province, Inc., to the Pallotine Seminary at Green Hill, Inc. Grantors convey 14.6 acres in two parcels (13.5 acres and 1.1 acre) from Green Hill Farm, part of Chillum Castle Manor. Same obtained from Congregation of the Resurrection, Inc., 9 August 1960, 2476:1.

2476:1
9 August 1960
Deed

Congregation of the Resurrection, Inc., to Pallotine Fathers of the Eastern Province, Inc. Grantors convey two parcels, 14.6 acres. Same obtained from Charles W. Clagett, trustee. 8 October 1936, 469:30.

469:30
8 October 1936
Deed

Charles W. Clagett, trustee, Estate of E. Francis Riggs, Jr. deceased, to Congregation of the Resurrection, Inc. Grantor conveys 40.09 acre parcel (part of Lot 2), including grounds of mansion house, mansion house, two servants houses, outbuildings, ancient chapel, formal gardens, large lawn, vineyard, fish pool, original tomb of L'Enfant and vegetable and flower gardens (on approximately 25 acres) and an additional 15 acres for privacy, of decedent's Green Hill Farm. Same obtained from National Savings and Trust Co., and Edwin C. Dutton, trustees, 24 May 1920, 156:179.

156:179
24 May 1920
Deed

National Savings and Trust Co., Edwin C. Dutton, trustees Estate of Cecelia Howard, deceased to E. Francis Riggs, Jr. Grantors convey 66.5 acre parcel known as Lot 2 of Green Hill Farm. Same obtained Elisha Francis Riggs, et al, 1 July 1897, JB1:100.

JB1:100
1 July 1897
Deed of Partition

Elisha Francis Riggs, et al as heirs at Law of Thomas Lawrason Riggs, deceased to Elisha Francis Riggs, et al. Grantor conveys unto himself and others, portions of Green Hill Farm and other holdings, as divided into 8 lots totalling approximately 671 acres; Alice L. Riggs and Cecelia Riggs Howard received Lot 2 (66.5 acres) including mansion house and outbiuldings; Same obtained by decedent by deed from Lawrason Riggs 23 April 1884, JWB 3:203.

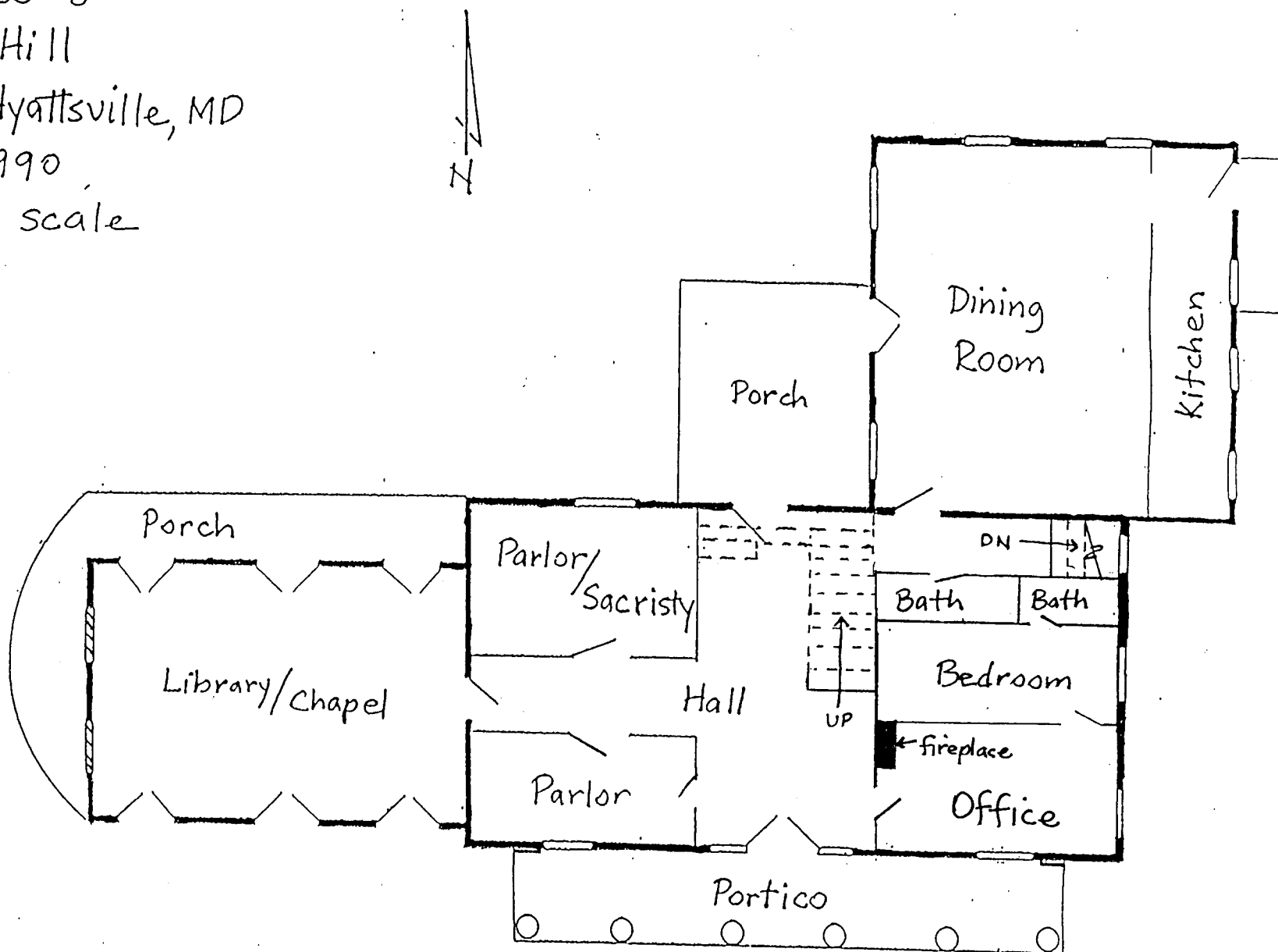
JWB3:203
23 April 1884
Deed

Lawrason Riggs, executor George Washington Riggs, deceased to Thomas Lawrason Riggs. Grantor conveys Green Hill Farm (626 acres), the late County seat of George Washington Riggs. Same obtained by decedent in part from Norah Digges, 20 November 1863, FS1:824.

FS1:824
20 November 1863
Deed

Norah Digges, widow of William D. Digges, to George Washington Riggs. Grantor conveys 342 acre parcel from Chillum Castle Manor. Same obtained by will from estate of William D. Digges as dower portion. 15 January 1831, TT1:454. To clear title this deed is made.

PG 65-8
Green Hill
West Hyattsville, MD
June 1990
not to scale



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

166-0
Pg 49
1700494508

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Green Hill or Chillum Manor				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 2009 Van Buren Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Chillum				
STATE: Md.		COUNTY: Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Pallatine Fathers				
STREET AND NUMBER: 2009 Van Buren Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Chillum		STATE: Md.		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro		STATE: Md.		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: M-NCPPC Historic Sites Survey				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: M-NCPPC				
STREET AND NUMBER: 5107 Muncaster Mill Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville		STATE: Md.		

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The estate consists of two historically important structures, the main house and an excellent 19th century Victorian Gothic revival chapel. The house is a large 2-1/2 story stone structure with a prostyle hexastyle portico in the ionic order. The doorway, with flanking sidelights, has a curved pediment; the windows are surrounded by heavy stone frames on the south facade, although on the east facade they have plain stone lintels and sills. The roof is hipped and has two round arched dormer windows facing south and a flat roofed dormer window facing east. To the west is a large addition set back from the main facade. The character and quality of the work--particularly on the portico and south facade--suggests extensive remodelling at a recent date.

Of greater architectural interest is the 19th century Puginesque chapel. The facade has a pointed arched door and a small window in the gable. A bell cote sits on the ridge of the roof. On the south facade are three pointed arched windows. The north facade has two windows and a short transept. The apse, which continues the roofline of the nave, is three-sided with a blind end wall and windows in the two other walls. The pointed-arched windows and door are all handled in the same manner. The jambs have rusticated quoining blocks while the arches consist of square voussoir blocks and diamond-shaped key-stones. The sills are heavy stone blocks projecting beyond the wall surface. The corners of the building are also quoined. The walls of the building are laid up in random courses that contrast with the irregular ashlar of the quoining and arches.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

L'Enfant was originally buried on the site; however, his body has been removed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC

DATE: 2/2/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Ga. Ave.

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring

STATE: Md.

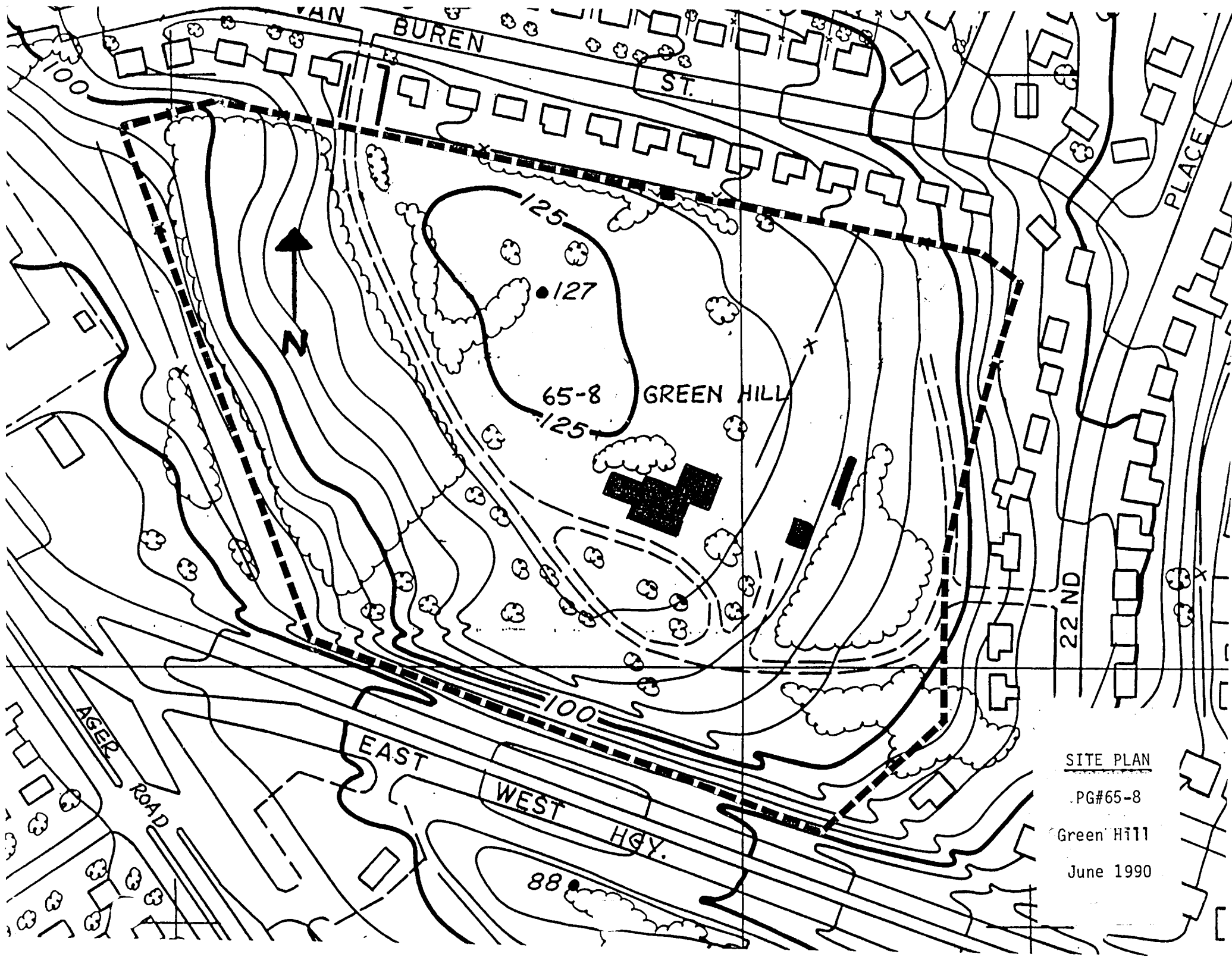
12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

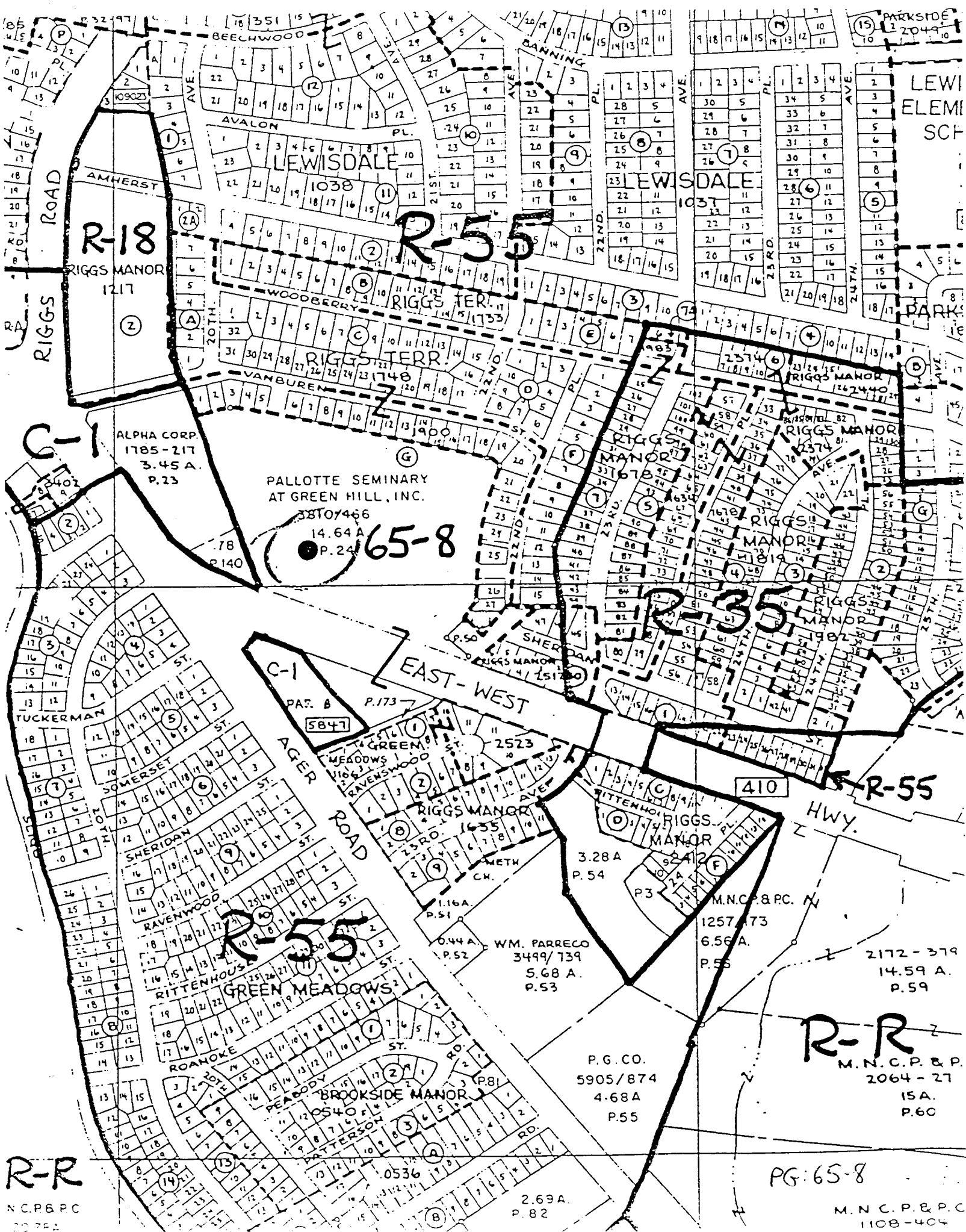


SITE PLAN

PG#65-8

Green Hill

June 1990



4318000m N

4317

4316

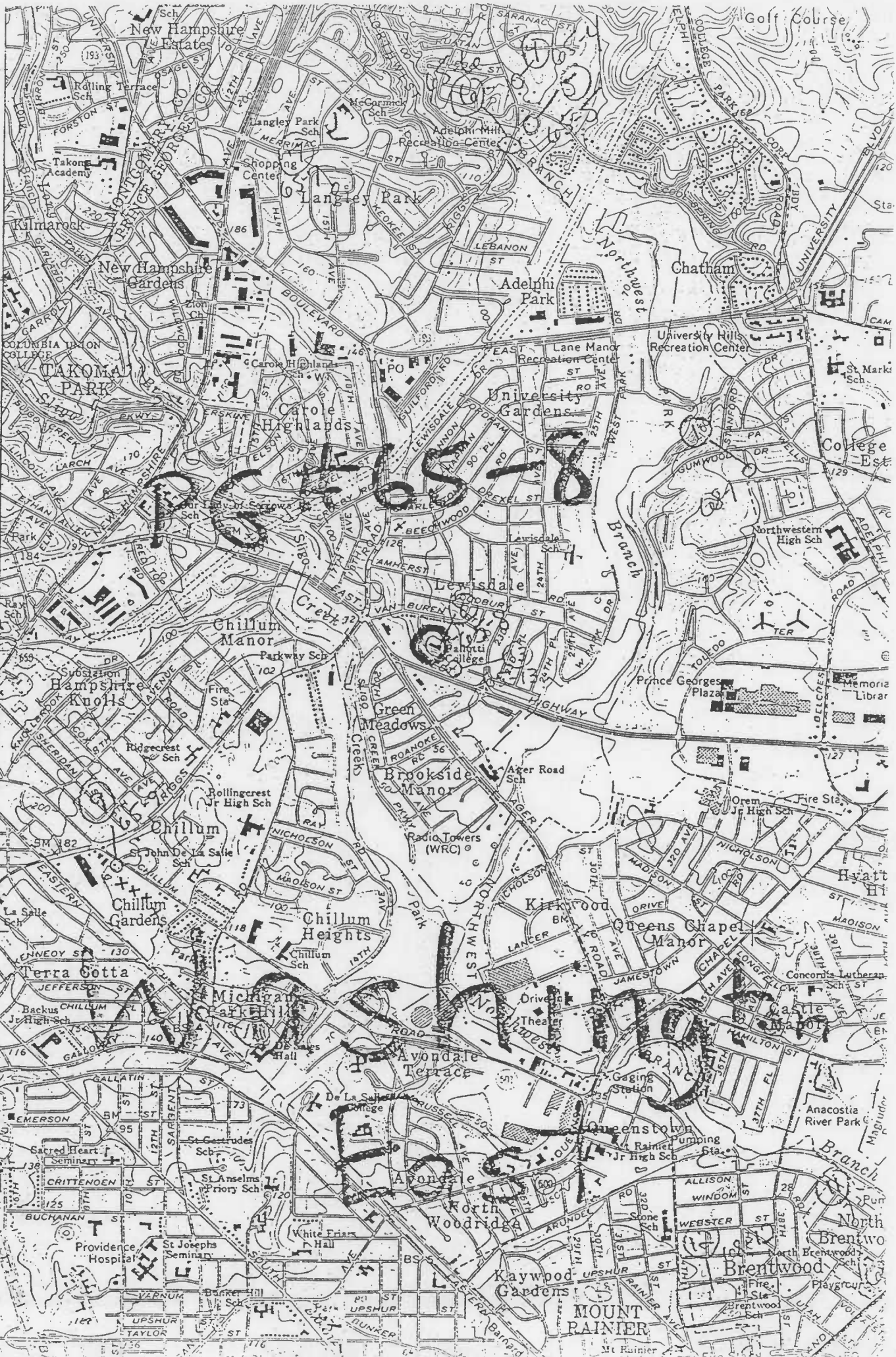
4315

4314

57'30"

4313

4312



PG:65-8

See Wash. Star 6/24/14

"GREEN HILL" OR "CHILLUM CASTLE MANOR" PS. Co. Md. ca 1913



CATHOLIC CHAPEL AT ABOVE





GREEN HILL

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HOWARD S. BERGER

JUNE 1990

SOUTH ELEVATION

NEG. MHT, ANNAPOLIS

2 of 12



PG#65-8

GREEN HILL

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD.

HOWARD S. BERGER

JUNE 1990

SOUTHWEST $\frac{3}{4}$ ELEVATION

NEG: MHT, ANNAPOLIS

1 OF 12



GREEN HILL

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HOWARD S. BERGER

JUNE 1990

DETAILS: MAIN ENTRY

NEG: MHT, ANNAPOLIS

3 of 12



GREEN HILL

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HOWARD S. BERGER

JUNE 1990

DETAIL LIDWALL, ENTRY DOOR FR. WEST
NEG: MHT, ANNAPOLIS

9 of 12



GREEN HILL

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HOWARD & BERGER

JUNE 1990

EAST ELEVATION

NEG: MHT, ANNAPOLIS

4 of 12



GREEN HILL

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY

HOWARD S. BERGER

JUNE 1991

NORTHEAST 3/4 ELEVATION

NEG. MHT, ANNAPOLIS

5 OF 12



GREEN HILL

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HOWARD S. BERGER

JUNE 1990

NORTHWEST 3/4 ELEVATION

NEG: MHT, ANNAFOLIS

6 of 12



GREEN HILL

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY

HOWARD S. BERGER

JUNE 1990

NORTH ELEVATION LIBRARY WING

NEG: MHT, ANNAPOLIS

7 of 12



GREEN HILL

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HOWARD S. BERGER

JUNE 1990

L'ENFANT CENOTAPH FROM EAST

NEG: MHT, ANNAPOLIS

8 of 12



GREEN HILL

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HOWARD S. BERGER

JUNE 1990

DETAIL LIBRARY FROM NORTHWEST

NEG: MHT, ANNAPOLIS

10 of 12



PG#65-8

GREEN HILL
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HOWARD S. BERGER
JUNE 1990
FRAME SHED FROM SOUTHWEST
(MAIN FACADE)
NEG: PWT, ANIMATED IS
11 OF 12



PC #65-8

GREEN HILL

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HOWARD S. BERGER

JUNE 1990

FRAME SHED FROM SOUTHEAST
(REAR ELEVATION)

NET: MHT, ANNAPOLIS

12 OF 12



NAME CHILHAM CASTLE MANOR #65-8
LOCATION 2009 VAN BUREN ST. CHILLUM, MD
FACADE W (20TH C SECTION IN FOREGROUND - OLDER TO REAR, LEFT)
PHOTO TAKEN 2/2/73 MOWYER